

## Message Text

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S/S - MR. GAMBLE

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FOR CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL, SATURDAY, 19 FEBRUARY

NO. 22

HEREWITH FULL TEXT OF WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL ENTITLED,  
"OVERSIGHT". BEGIN TEXT: EVEN AS EARLY EDITIONS OF  
YESTERDAY'S WP WERE APPEARING ON STREETS THURSDAY NIGHT TELL-  
ING ABOUT 20 YEARS OF SECRET CIA SUBSIDIES TO KING HUSSEIN  
OF JORDAN, FORMER DIRECTOR OF CIA, GEORGE BUSH, WAS APPEAR-  
ING ON WETA'S "AGRONSKY AT LARGE" PROGRAM, TELLING ABOUT  
CURRENT STATE OF CIA "OVERSIGHT".

MR. BUSH: ...IN THE FUTRE AS IN RECENT PAST, COVERT ACTIONS  
...ARE STAFFED OUT VERY DIFFERENTLY. AND THERE ARE PRESI-  
DENTIAL FINDINGS, AND THOSE FINDINGS ARE REPORTED IN TIMELY  
FASHION UNDER LAW TO SEVEN COMMITTEES OF U.S. CONGRESS.  
SO WE ARE PROTECTED IN THIS COUNTRY...

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MR. AGRONSKY: I WONDER HOW PROTECTED WE ARE...

MR. BUSH: WELL, I KNOW MORE ABOUT IT THAN YOU DO, AND I'M  
TELLING YOU IT WORKS ACCORDING TO LAW AND ACCORDING TO PRO-  
CEDURES SET OUT BY PRESIDENT IN THE EXECUTIVE ORDER...I  
THINK THE DIRECTIVES ARE SUCH, AND I THINK THE EXECUTIVE

ORDER IS SUCH, AND THEN I THINK THE EDUCATION OF THE CULTURE IS SUCH THAT THE RIGHTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE PROPERLY SAFEGUARDED AGAINST THE KINDS OF (COVERT) ABUSES YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

SO MUCH FOR THE WAY "OVERSIGHT" SUPPOSEDLY HAD BEEN REFORMED AND MADE FOOLPROOF UNDER FORD ADMINISTRATION. QUESTION REMAINS: HOW MUCH OF THIS NEW APPROACH TO SUPERVISION OF CIA ACTUALLY CARRIED OVER IN TRANSITION TO CARTER? MR. BUSH HAD SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THIS AS WELL:

MR. BUSH: I HAD FIVE SESSIONS WITH (MR. CARTER), THREE RATHER LONG INTENSIVE BRIEFINGS, IN WHICH WE COVERED NOT ONLY THE TROUBLE SPOTS IN THE WORLD...IT ALSO COVERED THE MOST SENSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE BUSINESS THAT THE PRESIDENT MUST KNOW ABOUT IT, THE SOURCES AND METHODS PART OF THE BUSINESS....

FROM FOREGOING IT WOULD SEEM SAFE TO CONCLUDE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER KNEW JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE THAT HIS PREDECESSOR KNEW ABOUT CURRENT CIA OPERATIONS OF ALL KINDS, AND THAT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSEERS OF CIA WERE EQUALLY WELL-INFORMED. IN PARTICULAR, IT WOULD SEEM SAFE TO CONCLUDE THAT MR. CARTER KNEW ABOUT PAYMENTS TO KING HUSSEIN, WHICH CIA OFFICIALS ARE NOW EXPLAINING ENTIRELY IN TERMS OF EXCEEDINGLY SENSITIVE "SOURCES AND METHODS" OF INTELLIGENCE GATHERING. BUT IF THAT IS SO, HOW COULD IT BE THAT:

(1) PRESIDENT CARTER APPARENTLY PROFESSES NOT TO HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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HEARD ABOUT USG'S CLANDESTINE FINANCIAL RELNS WITH KING HUSSEIN UNTIL THIS WEEK, AND, THUS, COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD CONTINUED THE SUBSIDIES IN FACE OF A FINDING BY HIS OWN INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT BOARD THAT PAYMENTS CONSTITUTED AN "IMPROPRIETY"; (2) SECSTATE VANCE, RIGHT UP TO MOMENT OF HIS ARRIVAL IN AMMAN YESTERDAY TO VISIT JORDANIAN MONARCH, WAS REPORTEDLY IGNORANT OF AN ARRANGEMENT THAT ONE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT WAS A RATHER IMPORTANT ITEM IN U.S.-JORDANIAN RELANS; (3) SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS SET UP LAST YEAR TO PROVIDE A SOUNDER SYSTEM OF OVERSIGHT OF CIA, "WAS NOT GIVEN THE FULL STORY...OF THE SECRET PAYMENTS TO HUSSEIN," ACCORDING TO BOB WOODWARD'S REPORT IN YESTERDAY'S POST.

THOSE ARE QUESTIONS ABOUT CIA'S SO-CALLED PAYOFFS TO KING HUSSEIN THAT WE FIND MOST INTERESTING -- AND MOST DISQUIETING. IF YOU HAVE TO PICK AND CHOOSE AMONG CIA ABUSES AND EXCESSES OVER PAST TWO DECADES OR SO, BRIBING FOREIGN HEADS OF STATE STRIKES US AS MEASURABLY LESS OFFENSIVE THAN BLOW-

ING UP THEIR PALACES OR -- IF YOU WILL FORGIVE AN EXPRESSION

APPROPRIATE TO MENTALITY OF THOSE WHO WERE THINKING UP THESE SCHEMES -- BUMPING THEM OFF. IT IS NOT THAT WE WOULD CONDONE BRIBERY; IT IS SIMPLY THAT IN THE YEAR 1977 IT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND STATE OF AFFAIRS IN JORDAN AND THE ME 20 YEARS EARLIER -- AND WHEN YOU DO UNDERSTAND IT, STILL HARDER TO MAKE CATEGORICAL JUDGMENTS ABOUT NATURE OF AMERICAN AID TO KING HUSSEIN. U.S. WAS NOT THEN SUPPORTING THE "LIFESTYLE" OF A "PLAYBOY PRINCE". HUSSEIN WAS NOT THAN A PRINCE; BY 1957, WHEN THE "PAYOFFS" BEGAN, HE HAD BEEN KING FOR FOUR YEARS AND THE ISSUE WAS NOT SO MUCH HIS LIFESTYLE AS HIS LIFE, AND THAT OF HIS KINGDOM WHOSE "INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE" WAS THEN HELD BY JOHN FOSTER DULLES TO BE "VITAL" TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE U.S. WHETHER, IN 1977, THIS IS AN APPROPRIATE WAY TO PROTECT VITAL AMERICAN INTERESTS IS AN IMPORTANT QUESTION. BUT IT UNCLASSIFIED

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IS NOT NEARLY AS IMPORTANT, IN OUR VIEW, AS QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE NOW EXISTS AN "OVERSIGHT" SYSTEM THAT DOES, IN FACT, PROVIDE THOSE "PROTECTIONS" TO AMERICAN PUBLIC THAT GEORGE BUSH WAS TALKING ABOUT THURSDAY NIGHT.

"OVERSIGHT", OUR DICTIONARY SAYS, MEANS "SUPERVISION, WATCHFUL CARE." BUT WHEN IT IS USED IN QUITE ANOTHER WAY, IT CAN ALSO MEAN SOMETHING ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT -- A "FAILURE TO NOTICE OR CONSIDER, AN OMISSION OR ERROR DUE TO CARELESSNESS." IN LIGHT OF THE REVELATIONS OF CIA/HUSSEIN CONNECTION, IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO ASK ALL OVER AGAIN JUST WHAT MEANING OF THE WORD ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE IN MIND WHEN THEY TALK SO ASSUREDLY ABOUT "OVERSIGHT" WITH RESPECT TO CIA.

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